

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 056431  
ORIGIN ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SOE-02 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00  
COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 DOE-11 H-01 INR-10 INT-05  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-05 USIA-06 OES-07  
SP-02 SS-15 STR-07 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 DLOS-09 EPA-01  
CEQ-01 /132 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/CAR:J GRIFFITH/KAR  
APPROVED BY L:M FELDMAN  
ARA/CAR:A HEWITT (DRAFT)  
ARA/CAR:R SURBER (DRAFT)  
OES:MR. NEGROPONTE (INFO)  
INR:R HODGSON (INFO)  
-----126080 061819Z /50  
R 061537Z MAR 78  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY NASSAU

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 056431

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, BF

SUBJECT: THE BAHAMIAN PETROLEUM LEGISLATION

REF: NASSAU 357

1. NASSAU A-7 NOT RPT NOT YET RECEIVED, AND DEPARTMENT  
WOULD APPRECIATE TELEGRAPHIC SUMMARY OF 1978 PETROLEUM  
AMENDMENT ACT. PLEASE ALSO POUCH TO ARA/CAR TEXT OF  
AMENDMENT ACT, IF IT IS NOT INCLUDED WITH A-7, AS WELL AS  
TEXTS OF 1971 ACT AND OF THE FISHERIES RESOURCES (JURIS-  
DICTION AND CONSERVATION) ACT OF 1977.

2. DEPT. WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE EMBASSY VIEWS ON PROBABLE  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 056431

BAHAMIAN SCHEDULE FOR "CALLING FOR TENDERS" (PARA. 1  
REFTEL) AND SCENARIO FOR ANY FURTHER ACTIONS RE: BLAKE  
PLATEAU, SUCH AS ISSUING TRACTS TO OIL COMPANIES. ANY  
LIGHT YOU COULD SHED ON BAHAMIAN INTENTIONS AND SCHEDULE  
FOR BOUNDARY NEGOTIATIONS WITH U.S. OR OTHERS WOULD ALSO  
BE HELPFUL.

3. FYI - FOR YOUR BACKGROUND, THERE IS CONSIDERABLE PRESSURE IN U.S. TO MOVE FORWARD WITH DRILLING ON BLAKE PLATEAU. DEPT. UNDERSTANDS INTERIOR WILL SELECT

TRACTS IN APRIL ON WHICH ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES ARE TO BE PREPARED IN ORDER TO DETERMINE WHICH TRACTS SHOULD BE OFFERED TO COMPANIES. WE ARE WRITING TO INTERIOR, ADVISING THAT WE WISH TO BE CONSULTED BEFORE ANYTHING IS DONE. IN CONSULTATIONS, WE SHALL ARGUE THAT TRACTS SELECTED FOR STUDY SHOULD LIE TO WEST OF EQUIDISTANCE LINE IN ORDER TO MINIMIZE POSSIBILITY OF BAHAMIAN PERCEPTION OF TRACT SELECTION AS PREJUDICIAL TO AN ACCEPTABLE BOUNDARY SETTLEMENT.

4. WE WISH TO KEEP MILITARY BASE AND BOUNDARY NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE BAHAMAS SEPARATE. WE HOPE, THEREFORE, WE CAN DEFER BOUNDARY TALKS UNTIL WE HAVE A BETTER IDEA OF LIKELIHOOD AND TIMETABLE FOR A BASE AGREEMENT WHILE AT SAME TIME NOT DAMAGING PRESENT PROSPECTS FOR A BOUNDARY SETTLEMENT. BAHAMIAN AMBASSADOR TO WASHINGTON SHARES OUR VIEW OF DESIRABILITY OF KEEPING BASE AND BOUNDARY NEGOTIATIONS SEPARATE AND BELIEVES BAHAMIAN GOVERNMENT LACKS PERSONNEL AND OTHER RESOURCES EFFECTIVELY TO CONDUCT BOTH NEGOTIATIONS SIMULTANEOUSLY.

5. WE HOPE TO AVOID COMPETING WITH THE BAHAMIANS OVER  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 056431

NOMINATIONS, ESPECIALLY CONFLICTING NOMINATIONS FOR OVERLAPPING BLOCKS AS ADDERLEY SUGGESTED IS ENVISAGED BY THE BAHAMIANS. IN ADDITION, WE PARTICULARLY WISH TO FORESTALL ADOPTION BY THE BAHAMAS OF "EXTREME AND UNACCEPTABLE POSITION" AS SUGGESTED IN PARA. 3 OF REFTEL. WE HOPE, THEREFORE, BAHAMIANS WILL EXERCISE RESTRAINT, BUT RECOGNIZE IT MAY PROVE EXPEDIENT TO BEGIN BOUNDARY NEGOTIATIONS AS EARLY AS THIS SPRING OR SUMMER, WHETHER OR NOT THE BASE NEGOTIATIONS ARE AS FAR ALONG AS WE WOULD LIKE.

6. EMBASSY'S VIEWS AND COMMENTS AND CONTINUED MONITORING OF SITUATION WILL HELP US DETERMINE HOW WE SHOULD PROCEED. IN THE MEANTIME, IT WOULD BE EXTREMELY USEFUL IF EMBASSY COULD FIND OPPORTUNITY TO ADVISE ADDERLEY, MAYCOCK, PINDLING AND OTHERS THAT USG BELIEVES IT EXERCISED RESTRAINT IN DEFINING SEPTEMBER CALL FOR NOMINATIONS, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT BAHAMIAN REACTIONS TO U.S. FISHERIES LINE, AND WE HOPE BAHAMIANS WILL DO THE SAME. VANCE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PETROLEUM, EXPLORATORY DRILLING, PROPOSALS (BID)  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 06 mar 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978STATE056431  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** J GRIFFITH/KAR  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780100-1170  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** STATE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1978/newtext/t197803102/aaaadilx.tel  
**Line Count:** 112  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 2625f8b7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ORIGIN ARA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 78 NASSAU 357  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 06 jul 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 3105253  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** THE BAHAMIAN PETROLEUM LEGISLATION  
**TAGS:** ENRG, BF, US  
**To:** NASSAU  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/2625f8b7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014